

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

Today we received some important information and guidance from the US Department of Education (US ED) concerning disbursement schedules, amounts and uses of certain stimulus funds. I know you have been awaiting this information, and I wanted to get you the information as quickly as possible. Here is the new information we received this afternoon:

Title I, Part A and IDEA, Part B

- 50% of the funds will be released to the Indiana Department of Education by the end of March, which we will then distribute to schools under the current formulas.
- The other 50% will be released on or before September 30, 2009, pending amended applications.
- The money will count toward the FY2009 disbursements, and the regular FY2009 disbursements will still occur on July 1, 2009 and October 1, 2009.
- Because the money counts toward FY2009, 85% of the funds must be spent by September 30, 2010, with the remaining funds spent by September 30, 2011 (this applies to all money disbursed in March, July, and October).
- "Supplement, not supplant" guidelines remain in effect for this money, but US ED has suggested that in most instances, schools that face significant budget shortfalls will not be violating these guidelines.
- Preliminary estimates of dollar amounts each school can expect to receive through both Title I, Part A and IDEA, Part B can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/09arrastatetables.pdf>. Please note that these are estimates only. They may help you as you plan ahead, but they are not final amounts.

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds

- 67% of the money will be released to state governors within the next month and a half, pending an application submitted by the Governor's office.
- The remaining dollars will be released after an accepted application and approval scheduled for late summer.
- We are still awaiting more guidance on how this money can be spent, but we do know that nearly 82% must be spent on education.

This is a process we have been monitoring closely, and we plan to continue to provide you with information as we receive it. While we must keep in mind that this is a one-time funding source and we must avoid funding cliffs in the future, we want you to begin thinking about how you can and will spend the money your districts and schools will receive strategically to improve the academic achievement of your students. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tony Bennett